



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in California

On April 25, 2003, California was classified as **Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA)**, because bovine TB had been confirmed in three dairy herds since May 2002 - two in Tulare County and one in Kings County. All three herds were quarantined, the cattle destroyed and the affected premises cleaned and disinfected. Cattle sold from or associated with each herd are being traced and tested. California can reapply for Accredited Free status in April 2005, provided no additional infected herds are detected.

Update

As of November 30, 2003, 648,064 cattle in 480 herds have been tested for bovine TB since this investigation began, and about 13,000 cattle have been depopulated.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Number of herds tested	480
Number of animals tested	648,064
Number of herds quarantined	3
Number of cattle destroyed	~13,000
Average number of field personnel	30

TB Across the U.S.

Forty-six states are classified as Accredited Free. California, Texas and New Mexico are Modified Accredited Advanced and Michigan is Modified Accredited.

In November, Texas began its plan to regain free status. They aim to test all 880 dairies and 2,400 of their purebred beef herds. So far, 49 dairies and 31 beef herds have tested negative for bovine TB.

New Mexico is testing all herds associated with their two infected dairies, and Michigan continues testing herds associated with infected wildlife. Both Texas and New Mexico are contracting with private veterinary practitioners to complete this work; USDA and CDFA staff are doing California's testing.

Impact on Livestock Producers

To eradicate TB, any remaining cases must be detected on the farm or at slaughter. A national standard has been established for caudal fold tests (CFT) done by private practitioners: a minimum response rate of 1% is expected - this false-positive rate is due to various *Mycobacterium* species such as *Johnes*. Therefore, producers should expect some response to the CFT and plan for follow-up testing by government officials. Practitioners must feel injection sites for a TB response, and inform government

officials when they find any. All responders must have a follow-up test on the neck to determine if the response is a false response, or due to bovine TB. Most responders are negative on the follow-up test; positive animals are subject to regulatory action.

Cattle Leaving California

All breeding cattle and bison leaving California require official identification and a negative official TB test within 60 days of being moved, unless they are:

- ≠# Moved to slaughter at an approved slaughter plant,
- ≠# From an accredited herd with a certificate showing the herd completed all testing for accredited status with negative results within one year before moving.

The TB requirements do not apply to sexually intact heifers moving to feedlots or steers and spayed heifers until **March 2004**. However, some states have more restrictive policies for moving cattle - always check with the state of destination for their requirements.

Breeding beef cattle 24 months of age and older moving to neighboring states annually for grazing on approved Pasture-to-Pasture permits require a TB test within 12 months of application for the permit and subsequently every three years to continue to move annually until California's TB status changes.

California's Eradication Plan

CDFA, USDA and the cattle industry are currently:

- ≠# Testing all dairies in Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties (approximately 773,000 milking cows in 700 herds)
- ≠# Enhancing slaughter surveillance in all California's slaughter plants. This is highly effective in detecting TB - 2 out of the 3 infected herds were detected this way. The goal for good surveillance is to examine 1 sample per 2,000 adult cattle killed.
- ≠# Enhance live animal testing procedures through training and education
- ≠# Restrict Mexican feeder cattle to "designated" pastures/feedlots (proposed for 2004 import season)
- ≠# Prepare to apply for Free status in April 2005.

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices

Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
Tulare TB Task Force	559-687-1158

USDA/APHIS/VS 916-854-3900 or 877-741-3690